



OCTOBER 1989

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# Ø BEAT



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Board Member	Edale Garbee N3EUA Black Forest	495-0091
Board Member	*Doug Brower NØHJT 19770 Top O' The Moor Monument 80132	488-0559
Board Member	*Max Stafford KDØEL P.O. Box 35 Palmer Lake 80133	488-9289

\* denotes the first year of a two-year term.

**ZERO BEAT** is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. Cost is 50¢ per month for non-members or a \$6.00 per year subscription. Permission is given to reprint articles or excerpts provided credit is given. Deadline for submission of articles is the 21st of the month. Classifieds accepted anytime.

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Hewlett-Packard facility, at the intersection of Lexington and Union, at 7:00 p.m. All amateurs and interested parties are invited to attend.

Editor: Chris Smith NXØE, 12455 Donovan Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80908 495-0624

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Cycles - all organisms seem to go through cycles, and organizations do too as well. The October meeting will mark the beginning of another cycle of club activity with the departure of some board members and the election of new ones.

I will be leaving the job of editor, and Ron NKØP will fill the position. Ron is going to need lots of help from the club membership. He is undertaking some changes to try to get it - the board agreed to his request to institute quarterly prizes for the best articles from O-Beat. In addition, he will be available on packet and through the KAØWIE BBS. Of course, you can always give Ron hard copy or contact him to send him an ASCII file over the phone.

Other board members have indicated they will not accept reelection this time. I have noted a sort of weariness that has come over the board, which comes from too long a time in a position of prodding, wheedling and cajoling others to participate in club activities. Wisely the board is seeking a change of the faces up front.

After all, this is your club. The board has given its best efforts in guiding the club, but perhaps the strain it has experienced has come from being out of step with the will of the membership. If we can elect a new board that more accurately reflects the mood of the club, we should see a new agenda of activities enthusiastically supported by the members.

Therefore the coming elections deserve more than a few seconds of passing thought. They should be preceded by your discussion with your fellow amateurs about the direction you would like to see the club, and by extension, amateur radio, take. If you feel strongly about these matters, you must consider running. By election night, we need a slate of alternatives and ideas from which to choose. Remember, a minimal effort will at best get a minimal response.

Then again, we get back to cycles. Over the past three years, I've seen a great deal of energy and enthusiasm from the members on behalf of the club. Perhaps that was a part of the cycle, and as winter follows autumn, the club will enter a period of rest - a minimum of activities, reorganization and recuperation before the next season of activity.

-NXØE

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**Prizes to be awarded at the  
December Meeting**

**to the Best Authors of the  
October, November and  
December issues.**

## TRANSMITTER HUNT

By Bill Pherigo WR0Y

The PPRAA held it's first (monthly?!) T-hunt on Saturday, September 23. The hunt started at 12:00 noon from the East Library in Colorado Springs. Over 10 hams participated, a majority of which found the transmitter (which was hidden on a ridge in Ute Valley Park) within two hours.

Next month's hunt will be run by Mike Lehmuhl, W9MHL, who was the first to find last month's transmitter. The starting location and boundaries will be the same as last time. Participants should meet at the East Library, on Union just up the hill from Academy Blvd., at 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 21.

The transmitter will be hidden within an 8 mile radius of the library. The hunt freq. will be 146.55 MHz and talk-ins will be on the 146.97 repeater. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Contact Mike, W9MHL, (488-2440), or Bill, WR0Y, (598-6778) for more information.



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## **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

*submitted by Al NOCMW, Secretary*

The general meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association was held at the Hewlett-Packard Briargate Facility, Wednesday evening 13 September 1989. The meeting was called to order by the president Rick WB7THT at 19:00, with 48 members and guests present. Rick asked each member to state what they would like to see the club do in the next year.

The minutes of the previous General Meeting and Board meeting were approved as printed in O-Beat.

### **Committee Reports**

Note: Please contact the chairman at the phone number listed if you can help out on any of these committees.

#### **Treasurer - Ron NK0P (593-8352):**

The treasurer's report was given by Ron. The club checkbook previous balance was \$2391.11. Expenses this month were \$389.16 and income was \$221.20. This gives a current balance of \$2223.16.

#### **Interference - Ron NK0P (593-8352):**

Ron had two inquiries this month.

#### **Education - Bud N0DDF (475-0537):**

Novice classes are starting September 20 at the Sand Creek Police substation. They will be held Wednesday and Friday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

#### **Publicity - Karen N1FED (495-0091):**

The publicity committee hasn't had much activity lately but will try to get some publicity about the sale of the 7.5 KW generator.

#### **Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (CCARC) - Oak K0ROL (635-2289):**

The next meeting will be in Boulder this November.

#### **Deaf and Blind School - Bud N0AA (689-2983):**

No report this month.

#### **ARES - Cliff KB0CVW (597-7334):**

Jake reported for Cliff about the exercise coming up on Sunday. Members are asked to contact Cliff if they can help out.

#### **Public Service - Mike K0TER (636-1290):**

Mike W7MHL reported for Mike K0TER about the upcoming Teller Count Hill Climb. It will be held October 6&7. Please call K0TER if you can help.

#### **VE Testing - Max KD0EL (488-9289):**

Next test will be this September on the 23rd. This test will be closed to walk-ins, so register with Max if you want a place at the exam. The price is \$4.75 except for Novice exams which are free.

### **Old Business**

Nothing to report.

### **New Business**

Fred KA0WIE reported that he has a O-Beat section on his packet BBS. The next club meeting will be at the Elks Lodge on North Nevada. It is located on the west side of Nevada between Fillmore and the dog track. Ron NK0P, who will assume the editorship of O-Beat with the November issue, announced prizes will be given for the best articles of the October, November and December issue. He also announced that the next meeting of the Academy Radio Club would be elections, and will be at the Tee-House at the Golf Course on October 10, 11:30 am. Bdale N3EUA reminded everyone that the ARRL Networking Conference would be held this October at the Academy and the Marriott Hotel. For registration contact Andy N0CCZ at 598-8323. Doug N4TGO is the new ARRL traffic manager and needs your help. Mike W9MHL is the new AMSAT representative.

### **Prizes:**

After a short intermission, the drawings were conducted by Floyd KB5FCN. The following won prizes:

N0CYR	Jake	Super Twist Screwdriver
NK0P	Ron	Meal at Village Inn
KQ0S	Joe	Engraver
KA0ZHP	Shannon	Mystery Prize
N1FED	Karen	Minix
N0DDF	Bud	One year membership
WB2EVR	Bill	Book
K0ROL	Oak	Book

### Program:

The program was about electromagnetic pulse (EMP) by Gen. Royer from the Air Force Academy. It was an enlightening and interesting program.

The meeting was adjourned at 2115. The next meeting will be on October 11 at 1900 hrs at the **Elks Club on North Nevada.**

-NOCMW

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING**

*submitted by Al NOCMW*

The Board meeting was held on 21 September 1989 at the QTH of Bud N0DDF. It was held on Thursday because a quorum was not obtained for the Monday meeting. In attendance were Al NOCMW, Bud N0DDF, Rick WB7THT, and Ron NK0P.

The upcoming elections and the move to the Elks Lodge were discussed at the meeting. The board voted to sponsor a series of transmitter hunts.

Rick WB7THT is looking into the price of a repeater for public service events.

The club needs a chairman if it wishes to hold a public Mall demo. Similarly, we won't have a Christmas party this year if a chairman isn't found to organize it.

Bud N0DDF needs instructors for the Novice classes. Max had informed the board that the next exams will be the 9th of December and that preregistration will be required.

Ron NK0P reported that the price of a 1/4 page ad in O-Beat is only \$12, and we need more advertisers.

The low bid required for the propane generator is now \$350. Bids will be accepted at the club's address.

The next board meeting was scheduled for October 19 at the QTH of Rick WB7THT. The meeting adjourned at 20:30.

-NOCMW

## **AEA RADIO CLUB MINUTES**

The meeting was on September 12 at 1130 at the Tee-House at the Golf Course. Several members were present; no names were recorded. It was noted that a few members were absent due to work.

The next meeting will be held at the same place at 11:30 on October 10.

-NOCMW

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## SKYWARN Nets

*By David Banks NX1ON*

In "The View From The Peak" in the September 1989 O-BEAT, George Hinds N8CIX made some comments concerning the operation of the local SKYWARN nets. As the Severe Weather Net Manager for this area having responsibility for that operation, I feel compelled to respond on behalf of all those who take the time and effort to participate.

In one respect, George was correct. Participation in severe weather nets has not been good on some occasions, particularly when severe weather occurred during peak vacation periods and during the day on weekdays when most people are at work.

But in some respects, George was inaccurate. While he did not exactly quote my article in the March 1989 O-BEAT, his interpretation was misleading at best. It was neither stated nor implied that people must come to every weather training class or they would be "scorned and turned away", though we do continue to encourage previously-trained amateurs to come each year for a refresher. What I did say was that the Weather Service would not act on information provided solely by a person who has never been trained. To do so would be irresponsible. Warnings are only issued by the Weather Service when they are sure of their facts so that people will have no doubt that they must take immediate action. Remember the little boy who cried wolf...?

Earlier this summer, I was personally called out on one occasion to verify a report of a supposed funnel cloud sighted near the Air Force Academy, close to where I was situated at the time. I was able to see the phenomenon and to report back that it was definitely NOT a funnel cloud and there was no need to issue any warning. The Weather Service and the authorities receive many such well-intentioned false reports and must be able to obtain reliable confirmation.

Two other recent examples come to mind where reports from untrained people could have been easily misinterpreted. One person reported that they had "one inch hail covering the ground". One inch diameter hail is considered severe and an indication that the storm producing it may spawn other dangerous phenomena. What this person actually had was a one inch depth of small pea-sized hail on the ground, hardly a concern to the Weather Service.

The second report was from another untrained person who claimed to have hail, one piece of which "measured four and one eighth inches". Yes, he'd measured a piece of hail and that really was the size of it, but he had measured the circumference of the hail, not the diameter! So, in reality, he had quarter- to golfball-sized hail, quite serious but not nearly as

perilous as the supposed grapefruit-sized hail his initial report had indicated.

National Weather Service sponsored training is important so that participating amateurs understand what the Weather Service needs (our sole purpose is to provide them with a service) and to learn how to both reliably recognize those phenomena when sighted and to communicate that information in a non-ambiguous manner.

George also criticized a net control station for ignoring a mobile station who offered to help on one occasion. Did it ever occur to you, George, that net control might not have heard him? Our net is frequently run by an amateur located at the Weather Service office at the Colorado Springs airport doing double duty by also talking to the Weather Service people to determine their needs. It's obvious that you have never seen the hustle in that office at such times, George, because you wonder why the phone doesn't always get answered. Trying to run the net under those conditions is less than ideal and sometimes calls do get missed.

On some occasions I have been net control (at least nominally) while mobile on my way from work or home in north-west Colorado Springs to the Weather Service office at the opposite corner of the city. Just to compound the difficulty of operating mobile, on a couple of occasions I was pounded by large hail along the way making operating all but impossible. So if I missed only one station, I didn't do too badly! I have also had other amateurs who, to the best of my knowledge, had no previous experience as a net control station but who volunteered anyway to jump in and run the net when I was having difficulty doing so. They really helped even if the net was run less than perfectly.

It's funny, I would have thought it unnecessary to explain all this to someone who has been trained and has so much experience in running SKYWARN nets. Can things be so different in Ohio? Running a SKYWARN net is not always easy, and participating in one takes time. But at least there are a number of people here who make the effort rather than sitting on the sideline complaining because others are not doing a perfect job.

You recognized that we need the help, George, so here's your big opportunity. As I see it you can do one of three things -- you can accept my personal invitation to help us out, you can stop criticizing those who are willing to make the effort to the best of their ability, or you can go back to Ohio where you can continue to criticize us all as much as you like!

*David Banks NX1ON*

## CW CLOSES HAM SHACK

by Al Vrooman N0CMW

CW Electronics wishes to thank all of you who have used the ham portion of the local store. It is with feelings of regret that we had to disband the ham department here in Colorado Springs. Be reassured that if you want to get something you can see Al at the store and he will order it. If it is available through the Denver store it can be here in three days or sooner.

-N0CMW

## RAIN GAUGE INFO

by Malcolm Benton KE9S

Over the past 6 months several amateurs have participated in recording the amount of rainfall in their area. At the end of each month they have sent the information to me to be recorded and forwarded to the National Weather Service. If you have recorded rainfall at your QTH during the period April 1 through September 30, and would like this included in my report, please send it to: Malcolm Benton, KE9S, 15365 Deby Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. If you would like to participate in the 1990 program please contact me at the above address or call me at 488-2071.

-KE9S

## DITS AND BITS

*O-Bent will allow amateurs to place free non-commercial ads and announcements of interest to local amateurs on a space available basis. O-Bent will try to insure accuracy in printing but cannot guarantee it.*

**FOR SALE** - The PPRAA is accepting bids for a used 7.5 KW propane generator. Minimum allowable bid is \$350.00. Mail bids to the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, P. O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.

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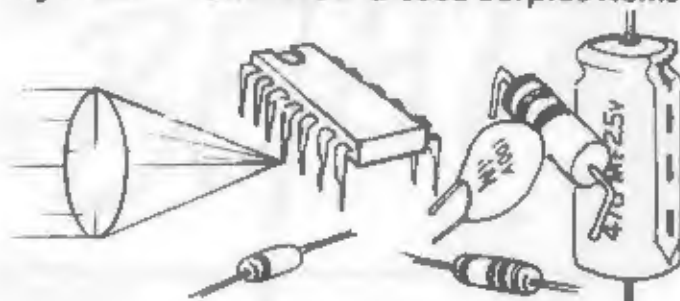
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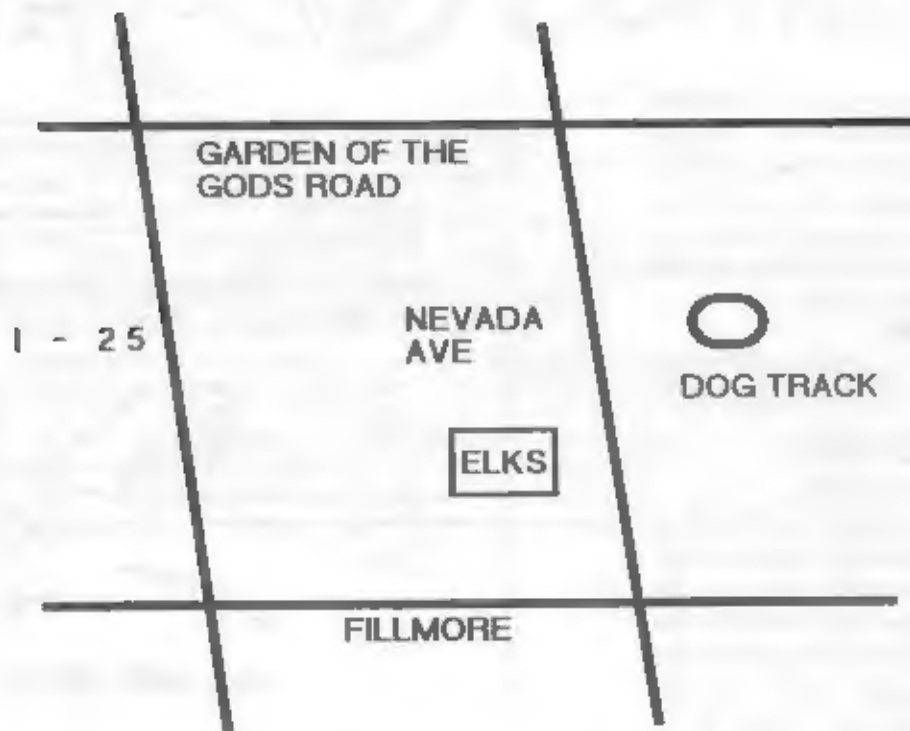
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**TWO GOOD REASONS TO REMEMBER THE OCTOBER MEETING -  
ELECTIONS AND A NEW MEETING PLACE!**

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